

EUROVISION

YOUNG MUSICIANS
EDINBURGH 2018

The 100% Unofficial
MINI GUIDE
to
Eurovision Young Musicians 2018

for
Commentators
Broadcasters
Media
&
Fans

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Eurovision Young Musicians – A Brief History

The first edition of Eurovision Young Musicians took place in 1982 in Manchester and the contest became a biennial contest occurring on 'even numbered' years ever since then. The contest was inspired by the BBC Young Musician of the Year contest. There have been 24 different instruments featured over the years; beside the traditional classical music instruments there have also been some ethnic instruments such as the *Tamburica* played by Croatia's Marko Martinović in 2016, the *Kanun* played by Narek Kazazyan from Armenia in 2012 and the *Cimbalom* played by Belarusian entrant Alexandra Denisenya in 2012.

The most prolific countries at Eurovision Young Musicians are Austria and Norway. Austria have taken part in 18 contests (though not this year) and Norway are close behind them having taken part in 17 contests

Year	Host City/Country	Winning Country	Musician	Instrument	Runner up
1982	Manchester, UK	Germany	Markus Pawlik	Piano	France
1984	Geneva, Switzerland	Netherlands	Isabelle van Keulen	Violin	Finland
1986	Copenhagen, Denmark	France	Sandrine Lazarides	Piano	Switzerland
1988	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Austria	Julian Rachlin	Violin	Norway
1990	Vienna, Austria	Netherlands	Niek van Oosterum	Piano	Germany
1992	Brussels, Belgium	Poland	Bartłomiej Nizioł	Violin	Spain
1994	Warsaw, Poland	UK	Natalie Clein	Cello	Latvia
1996	Lisbon, Portugal	Germany	Julia Fischer	Violin	Austria
1998	Vienna, Austria	Austria	Lidia Baich	Violin	Croatia
2000	Bergen, Norway	Poland	Stanisław Drzewiecki	Piano	Finland
2002	Berlin, Germany	Austria	Dalibor Karvay	Violin	UK
2004	Lucerne, Switzerland	Austria	Alexandra Soumm	Violin	Germany
2006	Vienna, Austria	Sweden	Andreas Brantelid	Cello	Norway
2008	Vienna, Austria	Greece	Dionysis Grammenos	Clarinet	Finland
2010	Vienna, Austria	Slovenia	Eva Nina Kozmus	Flute	Norway
2012	Vienna, Austria	Norway	Eivind Holtsmark Ringstad	Viola	Austria
2014	Cologne, Germany	Austria	Ziyu He	Violin	Slovenia
2016	Cologne, Germany	Poland	Łukasz Dyczko	Saxophone	Czech Republic
2018	Edinburgh, UK				

Participation:

Only active member broadcasters of the EBU are permitted to take part in the contest, contest participation may be extended to Associate Members at the discretion of the European Broadcasting Union and the host broadcaster.

42 countries have participated in the contest since its beginning and this years contest sees Albania make their debut. Austria are the most successful country at Eurovision Young Musicians with 5 winning entrants, Current title holders Poland are second in the 'medals table' with 3 wins, Germany and The Netherlands have won 2 contests. Violinists have been the most successful musicians with 8 wins, pianists are the second most successful musicians with 4 wins.

2018 Host City: Edinburgh

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital city, it is the seat of the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and the supreme courts of Scotland. The city's Palace of Holyroodhouse is the official residence of the monarchy in Scotland. It is the second largest financial centre in the United Kingdom and the city's historical and cultural attractions have made it the United Kingdom's second most popular tourist destination, attracting over one million overseas visitors each year. The city's skyline is dominated by Edinburgh Castle which plays host to many events and forms the backdrop for the famous annual Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Usher Hall, where the final of Eurovision Young Musicians will take place is a concert hall built in 1914 with an audience capacity of 2,200. The venue played host to the 1972 Eurovision Song Contest

Semi Final Round Up

- 18 participating countries
- Performers must be between the ages of 12 and 21, the age range for 2018 is 14-19.
- 2 semi final consisting of 6 recitals over 2 days
- Each semi final recital performance is limited to 18 minutes of music and may consist of one or more pieces of music.
- Musicians may perform their own compositions or those of other composers
- 2 musicians from semi final 1 and 4 musicians from semi final2 have qualified and will compete in the grand final at the Usher Hall and perform with the Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Those musicians who performed in the semi finals but did not qualify to the final are:

Country	Musician	Instrument
Malta	Bernice Sammut	Piano
United Kingdom	Maxim Calver	Cello
Spain	Sara Valencia	Violin
San Marino	Francesco Stefanelli	Cello
Poland	Marta Chlebicka	Flute
Greece	Thanos Tzanetakis	Guitar
Israel	Tamir Naaman-Pery	Cello
Estonia	Tanel-Eiko Novikov	Percussion
Belgium	Alexandra Cooreman	Violin
Albania	Klaudio Zoto	Cello
Sweden	Johanna Ander Ljung	Harp
Croatia	Jan Tominić	Saxophone

Grand Final

Six musicians will represent their countries at the grand final where they may perform for a maximum of 12 minutes where they be accompanied by the Scottish Symphony Orchestra. As before musicians may perform music they have composed themselves or music by any other composer. The running order and pieces of music were released ahead of the contest.

Country	Musician	Instrument	Piece(s)
Norway	Birgitta Elisa Oftestad	Cello	4 th mvt from Cello Concerto by Elgar
Slovenia	Nikola Pajanović	Violin	3 rd mvt from Violin Concerto by Tchaikovsky
Czech Republic	Indi Stivín	Double Bass	2 nd & 3 rd mvt from Bohemian Suite for Double Bass by Stivín (self composed)
Germany	Mira Foron	Violin	3 rd mvt from Violin Concerto by Sibelius
Hungary	Máté Bencze	Saxophone	Concerto do Camera for Saxophone by Ibert
Russia	Ivan Bessonov	Piano	3 rd mvt from Piano Concerto No 1 by Tchaikovsky

The Jury Members

Semi Final Jury

David Watkins – Internationally acclaimed cellist, conductor and music educator.

Ursula Leveaux – Chamber musician and principal Bassoonist.

Noè Rodrigo Gisbert – Award winning percussionist and orchestral collaborator.

Sinae Lee – Pianist, chamber musician, soloist and lecturer.

Grand Final Jury

David Watkins – Internationally acclaimed cellist, conductor and music educator.

Sir James MacMillan – Scottish composer and conductor

Marin Alsop – International conductor, pianist and classical guitarist.

Anna Meredith – Composer, producer & performer of contemporary classic, art pop & electronica

Andrew Moore – Double bassist and Head of Music at Edinburgh International Festival

How the contest is judged

Each juror will score each performance from 1-10 (no twelves!) based on technical accuracy, quality of sound, interpretation and overall performance.

After all the final performances the jury will retire and the initial awarded points are added together to form a potential winner. However, the jury will discuss this result and may make changes to the numerical rankings by mutual agreement. In the final, only the first three places will be announced. The jury will not know the results of the semi-final jury to avoid any preconception and influence of the final score.

The Finalists

Norway

Birgitta Elisa Oftestad

Cello



Birgitta is 16 years old, she was born in Oslo, Birgitta began playing the cello when she was 5 years old. She is currently a student at Barratt Due Institute of Music where she has taken part in their talent program since 2012. Birgitta has won many national and international prizes, both as a soloist and as a chamber musician, including the Norwegian Soloist Prize 2018. She has played at several festivals, such as the *Oslo Chamber Music Festival*, *Kaunas Festival* in Lithuania, *Bowdoin International Music Festival* in the United States and *Bergen International Festival*.

Slovenia

Nikola Pajanović

Violin



Nikola was born in 2000 in Ljubljana, Slovenia now aged 18 he started playing the violin in at the age of 6. Nikola is currently a third-year student at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, and a fourth-year high-school program student at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana. At the age of eight, he competed at *Euritmia Povoletto* in Italy winning the Gold Recognition and finishing in second place. Since then, he has participated in numerous competitions and has won many awards for his performances. Nikola has performed on many stages across Europe including performances with some of Europe's most prestigious chamber and symphony orchestras.

Czech Republic

Indi Stivín

Double Bass



Indi Stivín is 16 years old and comes from the Czech capital of Prague. He was born into a musical family and began playing music at a very young age: starting with the piano and the violin. When he was 9 he fell in love with the double bass and decided this was the instrument for him. It wasn't long before he began to write his own double bass compositions and will be performing one of his own pieces at Eurovision Young Musicians. He studies with Dalibor Tkadlčík, the Principal Double bass player of the State Opera Prague and he takes private lessons with Jan Krigovsky at Senec, Slovakia. Indi took a master class with Gary Karr one of the worlds most eminent bassists, Indi described it as: "the most influential musical meeting of my life". A multiple prize winner Indi made his solo debut performance earlier this year at the Prague Spring International Music Festival with his recital.

Germany

Mira Foron

Violin



Stuttgart native Mira is 16 years old. Both of her parents are professional musicians and her older brother is the prodigious conductor and pianist Nicolò Umberto Foron. Mira regularly performs duets with her brother. She began playing the violin at the age of 5 and has studied at the University of Hannover and the University of the Arts in Essen. She is currently a student at the University of Music in Detmold, Germany. Mira has won many German and international music competitions. In 2017, Mira was invited by four-time Grammy winner Anne Sophie Mutter, to join the Mutter's Virtuosi at her anniversary concert at the *Salzburger Festspiele* and the *Festspielhaus Baden*. Earlier this year Mira took part in the *Kronberg Academy music festival*.

Hungary
Máté Bencze
Saxophone



Máté is 18 years old and comes from Debrecen, he now lives in Hajdúböszörmény in the Eastern part of Hungary. As a child, he fell in love with classical music and dreams of becoming a professional musician. Máté currently studies at the Zoltán Kodály Conservatory in Hungary. Máté's dedication to his instrument has resulted in his winning national and international competitions. Máté qualified for Eurovision Young Musicians by winning the jury prize in *Virtuózok*, the Hungarian classical music TV contest, which he also entered in 2017. Beyond his music and studies, he is a skilled BMX rider and a fan of extreme sports.

Russia
Ivan Bessanov
Piano



16 year old Ivan began to study the piano when he was 6 years old. He is now a student at the Central Music School at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Ivan performs both in Russia and abroad and has participated in many music festivals and contests. He has worked with the State Symphony Orchestra of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Symphony Orchestra of the State Academic Capella of St. Petersburg, under the direction of some of Russia's most outstanding contemporary conductors. In 2016, Ivan presented a solo program at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. For many years Ivan has been composing music; in 2015 his debut as a composer, that for the score of the documentary film *Varicella* by Victor Kossakovsky, took place at the *Message to Man International Film Festival* in St Petersburg. Earlier this year Ivan took part in the young talent contest *Sinyaya Ptitsa* from where was selected to represent Russia at the Eurovision Young Musicians 2018 in Edinburgh.

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